UNITED NATIONS

ST

Secretariat

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10 January 1992

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management

Subject: HOST COUNTRY TRAVEL REGULATIONS*

1. The Secretary-General has received from the United States Mission to the United Nations a note verbale dated 23 December 1991 advising on changes in procedural requirements for private travel in the United States undertaken by Vietnamese staff members and their dependants.

2. According to the note, the persons concerned, effective immediately, "will enjoy unrestricted travel in the United States". They "will no longer be required to obtain hotel or campground accommodations, air, train or bus tickets or car rentals from the Office of Foreign Missions for travel in the United States". In addition, the restriction on travel outside the 25-mile radius has also been eliminated.

3. However, the individuals concerned will still be required to notify the Department of State of any intended non-official travel, specifically recreational travel, by submitting a travel notification form (TNF) to the United States Mission to the United Nations.

4. The Secretary-General, in his reply of 2 January 1992, welcomed this decision by the host country although the requirement referred to in paragraph 3 above is still of a restrictive character. The Secretary-General therefore reiterated the well-known position of principle of the Organization concerning the discriminatory treatment of United Nations staff members solely on the basis of their nationality and expressed the hope that "all travel restrictions will be lifted as soon as possible".

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* Personnel Manual index No. 13019/F.

5. Copies of the two notes verbales are set out in annexes I and II to the present circular.

6. The existing arrangements for official travel will remain unchanged and will be made in the usual manner.

Annex I

NOTE VERBALE DATED 23 DECEMBER 1991 FROM THE UNITED STATES MISSION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and wishes to inform the Secretary-General of changes in procedural requirements for travel in the United States by Vietnamese personnel and their dependants.

Effective immediately, employees of the United Nations organizations assigned to New York City (including persons temporarily assigned) who are nationals of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, including members of their families and personal staffs who are nationals of Viet Nam, will enjoy unrestricted travel in the United States. In practice, this means that these individuals will no longer be required to obtain hotel or campground accommodations, air, train or bus tickets or car rentals from the Office of Foreign Missions for travel in the United States. In addition, the restriction of travel outside the 25-mile radius has also been eliminated.

These individuals will still be required to notify the Department of State of any intended non-official travel, specifically recreational travel, by submitting a travel notification form (TNF). Travelers should either hand carry their TNFs to the United States Mission to the United Nations, Host Country Affairs Section, or fax to (212) 415-4162 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., Monday through Friday. TNFs must be submitted at least two full working days in advance of contemplated travel. Please note that the processing time does not include the dates of submission of travel, weekends and federal holidays.

As in the past, the Department of State needs travel notifications that are complete and accurate. A copy of the travel notification form to be used by affected personnel has been included. Should any clarification of the procedures outlined be required, please contact the Host Country Section of the United States Mission at (212) 415-4135.

Annex II

NOTE VERBALE DATED 2 JANUARY 1992 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary-General presents his compliments to the United States Mission to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's note verbale dated 23 December 1991 informing the United Nations of changes in the procedural requirements for travel in the United States by Vietnamese staff members and their dependants.

It is noted that effective immediately, staff members of the United Nations assigned to New York City (including persons temporarily assigned) who are nationals of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, including members of their families and personal employees who are nationals of that country, "will enjoy unrestricted travel in the United States". The note, in particular, advises that they "will no longer be required to obtain hotel or campground accommodations, air, train or bus tickets or car rentals from the Office of Foreign Missions for travel in the United States". In addition, the restriction on travel outside the 25-mile radius has also been eliminated.

The Secretary-General further notes that these individuals, however, will still be required to notify the Department of State of any intended non-official travel, specifically recreational travel, by submitting a travel notification form (TNF) to the United States Mission to the United Nations. Although this requirement is of a restrictive character, the Secretary-General nevertheless welcomes this decision by the United States aimed at resolving the problem of travel restrictions imposed on staff members of certain nationalities.

In this connection the Secretary-General is obliged to reiterate the well-known position of principle of the Organization concerning the discriminatory treatment of United Nations staff members solely on the basis of their nationality and express the hope that all travel restrictions will be lifted as soon as possible.

The existing arrangements regarding official travel in the United States of United Nations personnel remain unchanged and will be made in the usual manner.